

Education Advisory Committee

Adopted by the Board of Selectmen August 12, 2010

Context: SAD 75 has four representatives from Harpswell on its Board. The Town government has no authority to require those representatives, the SAD 75 Board, or its administration to take any particular action or provide any particular information. However, the Town government may make requests as it deems appropriate.

Composition: Five members - one person from each of the two elementary school districts; the president or designee from each of the two Parent Teacher Organizations; the Harpswell Recreation Director or a designated member of the Recreation Committee. The Select Board will appoint the Chair.

Authority: Committee requests for documents or detailed information from SAD 75 must be in the form of a recommendation to the Select Board, which will consider the recommendation and make a request to SAD 75 if it so chooses. The Committee is encouraged to communicate with and involve the Harpswell members of the SAD 75 Board in its deliberations.

As usual with Town committees, each member will be provided with a copy of the latest version of the Town's "Committee Guidelines." Committees may take no policy positions in the name of the Town, though they may make recommendations on policy to the Select Board.

Mission: Provide information and recommendations to the Select Board, and through it to the community, regarding the following areas:

SAD 75 Board and Administration

- Activities and reports considered of interest to the community
- Online or other sources to find agendas, minutes, and locations of meetings

Elementary Schools and the Community

- The value to the community of having one or more elementary schools: cultural, recreational, economic, etc.
- The issues, opportunities/barriers, advantages/disadvantages involved in establishing a central elementary school in the vicinity of the Town Office.

General Information

- Educational resources potentially helpful to parents
- Activities of the Parent Teacher Organizations in the two Harpswell schools
- Elementary school events of interest to the community: e.g., plays, suppers, fundraisers
- Learning opportunities offered by the Harpswell Recreation Program or other community groups
- Scholarship and other financial aid opportunities available to Harpswell families

West Harpswell School

- Consensus information on the advantages and disadvantages to the community of keeping the school open, and of closing the school.
- Consensus information on the likely school-aged population in each of the two elementary school districts over the next five years
- A summary of the consensus information for the Select Board at least six weeks before a scheduled popular vote on the status of the West Harpswell School.
- In this context consensus requires agreement of four of the five committee members.